NRI status to French Nationals of Pondicherry

3648. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to grant dual citizenship to NRIs;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 4000 families are living in the Union Territories of Pondicherry who have opted for French nationality ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand from the above families to give them NRI status ; and

(d) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil wells of Cauvery basin

3649. SHRI M. VINCENT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of natural gas that is now gushing out of the combined drilled oil wells of the Cauvery basin ;

(b) what is the quantity of the natural gas that is being put up to economical uses alongwith the details thereof ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to compress this natural gas and dispense the same in cylinders to be used as an alternative fuel in automobiles, especially State Transport undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) About 0.1 MMSCMD of gas is being produced of which about 0.08 MMSCMD is utilised.

(c) Yes, Sir. A pilot project is being implemented jointly by Madras Refineries Limited and the Tamilnadu Energy Development Agency.

Letters of intent for Petrol pumps

3650. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Letters of intent issued by the Indian Oil Corporation for Petrol/Diesel retail outlets in Uttar Pradesh during March-June, 1991 from the Minister's discretionary quota ;

(b) the names and addresses of those who were issued Letters of Intent ; and

(c) the reasons for which Government are adopting discriminatory policy in clearing the cases under review ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Nine, as per details given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(c) No discriminatory policy has been adopted while reviewing the cases.